

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009602  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN  
DUBLIN THE HAGUE LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM  
HQS DEA WASHDC DTD 071055Z JAN 77

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 0482

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UK, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: POSSIBLE "POMPIDOU GROUP" INITIATIVE ON  
THAILAND

REF: (A) LONDON 00190; (B) BANGKOK 76 31492 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY'SWHILE THERE MAY BE SOME MERIT AT SOME POINT IN  
FUTURE IN ENCOURAGING A "POMPIDOU GROUP" APPROACH TO  
THAILAND TO IMPROVE THAI NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT  
EFFORTS (REF A), WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT RPT NOT THE  
TIME. RECORD OF THAI GOVERNMENT IN SEIZING NARCOTICS  
IS CURRENTLY VERY ENCOURAGING, AND NEW RTG HAS MADE  
STRONG AND EXPLICIT COMMITMENT TO STRUGGLE AGAINST  
NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION AUTHORIZED  
IN LEGISLATION APPROVED NOV 12, BUT PRIME MINISTER IS  
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GOING SLOW IN SETTING IT UP, CLEARLY RECOGNIZING POTENTIAL  
FOR ABUSE OF VERY BROAD POWERS THIS NEW BODY WILL HAVE.  
UNTIL DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION IS FORMED AND BEGINS TO  
HAVE AN IMPACT (AS WE BELIEVE IT WILL), IT WOULD BE BEST  
TO PUT OFF AN APPROACH TO THAI BY "POMPIDOU GROUP" AT  
THIS TIME. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT INSTRUCT EMBASSY  
LONDON TO EXPRESS VIEW TO APPROPRIATE BRITISH OFFICIALS

THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO ARRANGE FOR "POMPIDOU GROUP" APPROACH TO THAI FOR THE PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME MERIT AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE IN ENCOURAGING A "POMPIDOU GROUP" APPROACH TO THAILAND TO IMPROVE THAI NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS (REF A), WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOT RPT NOT THE TIME. NEW THAI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY SINCE OCT 22 BUT HAS MADE CLEAR ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO AN IMPROVED EFFORT IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. RTG POLICE AND CUSTOMS SEIZED 59 KILOGRAMS OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTS (IN OPIUM EQUIVALENTS) IN NOVEMBER 1976; 600 KILOGRAMS IN DECEMBER, 1976; AND 220 KILOGRAMS IN FIRST WEEK OF 1977. EVEN UNDER PRECEDING THAI GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS VERY CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THAI NARCOTICS SEIZURES DURING 1976 AS A WHOLE, WHEN OVER 8.1 METRIC TONS WERE SEIZED, COMPARED TO ONLY 3.4 METRIC TONS IN 1975. (ALL FIGURES IN OPIUM EQUIVALENTS.)

2. APART FROM THE IMPROVED SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS, RTG COMPLETED ACTION ON LEGISLATION NOV 12, 1976, TO ESTABLISH DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION (DSC) IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (REF B). DSC WILL HAVE BROAD POWERS OF INVESTIGATION, SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND ARREST IN DRUG-RELATED CASES. DSC ITSELF WILL CONTROL THE PROCESS OF ARREST, INVESTIGATION, INTERROGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF DRUG CASES IN WHICH IT IS INVOLVED. ACTUAL SETTING UP OF THE DSC HAS MOVED SLOWLY, AS PRIME MINISTER THANIN HAS TAKEN HIS TIME TO APPOINT SENIOR OFFICERS OF THIS NEW AND POTENTIALLY VERY POWERFUL COMMISSION. HE CLEARLY UNDER-

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STANDS IMPORTANCE OF SELECTING BEST MAN AVAILABLE TO HEAD COMMISSION AND INFORMALLY CONSULTED AMBASSADOR ON THIS SUBJECT IN NOVEMBER. APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DSC HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT IT IS AUTHORITATIVELY RUMORED THAT SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL BE A RESPECTED JUDGE, PRAMUK SAWATDIMONGKHON. PRIME MINISTER THANIN WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE DSC HIMSELF, UNDERLINING THE EXTENT OF HIS CONCERN WITH THE WHOLE ISSUE OF DRUG ABUSE.

3. MOREOVER, DUTCH MINISTER OF JUSTICE VAN AGT AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DUTCH POLICE FONTEIJN ARE DUE TO VISIT BANGKOK NEXT WEEK. WE ARE SURE THAT VAN AGT WILL MAKE ALL OF THE POINTS WHICH "POMPIDOU GROUP" WOULD CONSIDER MAKING TO THAI. (DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR IS MEETING WITH VAN AGT DURING HIS VISIT TO THAILAND. CANADIAN AND BRITISH EMBOFFS WILL ALSO ATTEND MEETING.)

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT BEST WAY TO ELICIT IMPROVED

THAI COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS FIELD IS TO DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING OF VERY CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENTS THEY HAVE RECORDED IN PAST AND TO INVITE THEIR COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE, ALONG VERY CAREFULLY DEFINED AND THOUGHT-OUT LINES. WORST WAY TO GET THAI COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD IS TO HIT THEM OVER THE HEAD, WHICH IS WHAT WE FEAR THE "POMPIDOU GROUP" MIGHT DO, IF IT GOES OFF HALF COCKED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSY LONDON BE INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS TO APPROPRIATE BRITISH OFFICIALS OUR APPRECIATION OF THE POSSIBLE VALUE OF AN APPROACH TO THE THAI BY THE "POMPIDOU GROUP". HOWEVER, UNTIL THE DRUG SUPPRESSION COMMISSION HAS BEEN FORMED AND HAS BEGUN TO HAVE AN IMPACT (AS WE BELIEVE IT WILL, IT WOULD BE BEST TO PUT OFF AN APPROACH TO THE THAI BY THE "POMPIDOU GROUP" AT THIS TIME. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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